AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below. The language being added is underlined ("___") and the language being deleted contains strikethrough ("—"):

1. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (new) A data storage system comprising:

a plurality of media storage devices for storing a plurality of data media;

a data exchange device for exchanging data stored on the plurality of data media;

a media handling system for transferring the plurality of data media between the plurality of media storage devices and the data exchange device;

a bulk access apparatus configured to cover a plurality of openings in the data storage system, each of the openings providing access to one of the media storage devices; and

a locking mechanism configured to provide a first state in which the bulk access apparatus is securely attached to the data storage system and in which access to the plurality of openings is restricted, and a second state in which the bulk access apparatus is not locked to the data storage system and access to the plurality of openings is provided.

17. (new) The data storage system of claim 16, wherein the bulk access apparatus comprises a hinged door that is attached to the data storage system.

18. (new) The data storage system of claim 16, wherein the bulk access apparatus comprises a removable panel.

19. (new) The data storage system of claim 16, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a key lock.

20. (new) The data storage system of claim 19, wherein the key lock is attached to the bulk access apparatus and a key latch is attached to the data storage system.

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21. (new) The data storage system of claim 16, wherein the locking mechanism further comprises a solenoid lock.

22. (new) The system of claim 21, wherein the locking mechanism is attached to the data storage system and a solenoid latch is attached to the bulk access apparatus.

23. (new) A data storage system comprising:

a housing having a plurality of openings, each of the openings providing access to one of a plurality of media storage devices, each media storage device operable to receive a plurality of data media;

a data exchange device for exchanging data stored on the plurality of data media;

a media handling system for transferring the plurality of data media between the plurality of media storage devices and the data exchange device; and

a bulk access apparatus for providing a single point of entry to each of the plurality of openings.

24. (new) The data storage system of claim 23, further comprising a locking mechanism configured to provide a first state in which the bulk access apparatus is securely attached to the data storage system and in which access to the plurality of openings is restricted and a second state in which the bulk access apparatus is not securely attached to the data storage system and access to the plurality of openings is provided.

25. (new) The data storage system of claim 24, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a key lock.

26. (new) The data storage system of claim 24, wherein the locking mechanism is attached to the bulk access apparatus and a key latch is attached to the housing.

27. (new) The data storage system of claim 24, wherein the locking mechanism further comprises a solenoid lock.

28. (new) The data storage system of claim 24, wherein the locking mechanism is attached to the housing and a solenoid latch is attached to the bulk access apparatus.

29. (new) The data storage system of claim 23, wherein the bulk access apparatus comprises a hinged door that is attached to the housing.

30. (new) The data storage system of claim 23, wherein the bulk access apparatus comprises a removable panel.

31. (new) A method for accessing a plurality of data media in a data storage system, the data storage system comprising a plurality of media storage devices for storing the plurality of data media, a data exchange device for exchanging data stored on the plurality of data media, and a media handling system for transferring the plurality of data media between the plurality of media storage devices and the data exchange device, the method comprising:

unlocking a means for covering a plurality of openings in the data storage system, each of the openings providing access to one of the media storage devices; and

providing a single point of entry to the plurality of openings in the data storage system.